



## Chapter 5

# Resource Management

### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes Reclamation's decisions regarding strategies that will guide use and management of Reclamation's lands over the next 15 years. Some background on Reclamation's approach, authorities, and policies is provided for each of the primary categories; these are followed by specific Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions. Specific guidelines and procedures are provided for management as needed. Figure 5.1-1 shows which lands are slated to be retained by Reclamation and which ones will be relinquished to BLM, as well as other pertinent information. This figure also serves as an index to Appendix F, which provides more detail on these data in the form of enlarged maps of the area. See Appendix D for an explanation of the laws and policies related to Reclamation's authority to retain and relinquish lands. In all, approximately 9,607 acres are slated to be relinquished to BLM, while approximately 8,202 acres will be retained by Reclamation (including Lake Walcott State Park [140 acres]).

### 5.2 Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions

Management Actions are specific tasks intended to guide Reclamation management and staff, as well as managing partners, in

the activities required to properly manage Reclamation lands. They were derived from the Goals and Objectives developed over the course of preparing the RMP and associated EA. Guidelines and standards provide additional direction and clarification for selected Management Actions, where needed.

Management Actions are intended to be implemented over the next 15 years and are included here because they are considered the most appropriate actions for managing these lands. Inclusion of these actions is dependent on funding. Following are the six primary categories and associated subcategories described in this chapter:

- Land Use and Management (Section 5.2.1);
- Natural Resources (Section 5.2.2);
- Cultural Resources (Section 5.2.3);
- Indian Sacred Sites (Section 5.2.4);
- Indian Trust Assets (Section 5.2.5); and
- Recreation and Access (Section 5.2.6).

### 5.2.1 Land Use and Management (LUM)

Reclamation's general land use approach is to: (1) manage the lands in a manner consistent with Federal laws and regulations, and the principles of good stewardship to accomplish Project purposes and serve the public interest; (2) seek opportunities for coordinated and cooperative land use planning with other Federal, State, and local agencies; and (3) develop RMPs that best support the public interest, preserve and enhance environmental quality, and are compatible with project purposes and needs. As part of this approach, Reclamation strives to maintain a current inventory of all land holdings and uses.

Normally, law enforcement services on Reclamation lands are provided through contract and agreements with local partners. Enforcement efforts are required to address trespass and encroachment; willful damage or destruction of facilities, lands, or resources; and dumping on Reclamation lands.

Trespass and unauthorized use, when allowed to continue, deprive the public of their rightful use and enjoyment of the public lands. Willful damage or destruction of facilities, lands, or resources could endanger the public, prevent provision of project services, and destroy valuable natural and cultural resources, as well as cost money to repair. Prohibited acts on Federal land include: (1) constructing, placing, or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure, fence, enclosure, communication equipment, pump, well, or other improvement without a permit; (2) extracting materials or other resources without a permit; (3) damage or destruction of facilities or structures, including abandoned buildings; and (4) excavation, collection, or removal of archeological or

historical artifacts. Reclamation's general approach is to facilitate and ensure the proper use of land resources consistent with the requirements of law and BMPs. The primary management emphasis is to provide the public as a whole non-exclusive use of Federal lands while still protecting environmental values and natural and cultural resources.

It is also Reclamation's approach to clear, and keep clear, all lands from trespasses and unauthorized uses. In resolving trespass or unauthorized use issues, priority is given to those trespasses that are not in the best public interest, are not compatible with the primary uses of the land, or that have caused or are causing damage to significant environmental values or natural or cultural resources. Unauthorized uses and trespasses are best resolved before they become well established. When a violation does occur, Reclamation's first priority is to negotiate a solution to resolve the violation. In the event such negotiations fail, Reclamation will take actions necessary to protect the public interest and project lands, including legal action through the courts.

***GOAL LUM 1: Ensure that Project purposes are not restricted or impacted as a result of other uses and activities.***

**Objective LUM 1.1:** For safety and security reasons, require that Minidoka Dam and the security area surrounding the dam remain closed to public access.

#### Management Actions

**LUM 1.1.1:** Describe and show both the Reclamation Zone and the specific areas closed to public access for security purposes on publicly distributed materials and signage.

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**Back of Figure 5.1-1.**

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**LUM 1.1.2:** Notify the public through appropriate means if the closed area around the dam is modified.

**Objective LUM 1.2:** Protect access to and use of material extraction sites on Reclamation lands to allow for the continued extraction and/or storage of sand, gravel, and rock for the purpose of Irrigation District and Reclamation construction activities.

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 1.2.1:** Consider the extraction/storage of sand, gravel, and rock on Reclamation parcels on a case-by-case basis where it does not conflict with other Reclamation needs or priority natural and cultural values.

**LUM 1.2.2:** Ensure that responsible parties implement all applicable Best Management Practices in the course of extracting/storing materials from Reclamation parcels.

**Objective LUM 1.3:** Ensure that easements and crossing agreements issued to private and public entities do not interfere with Project operation and maintenance.

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 1.3.1:** Consult with Irrigation Districts or managing partners prior to issuance of easements and crossing agreements (see Reclamation Manual LND 08-01, paragraphs 3.H and 4.F).

**Objective LUM 1.4:** Address and resolve unauthorized access-related conflicts pertaining to Reclamation operations and maintenance roads (see Reclamation Manual LND 08-01, paragraphs 3.H).

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 1.4.1:** Provide signage as appropriate to limit access on operations and maintenance roads.

**LUM 1.4.2:** Enforce operations and maintenance road access restrictions through periodic monitoring and follow through related to the prosecution of violators.

**LUM 1.4.3:** Work with local agencies to ensure operations and maintenance roads are not identified as access to private property.

**Objective LUM 1.5:** Ensure that Reclamation facilities are not impacted by new construction (e.g., stormwater runoff, relocations, and crossings).

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 1.5.1:** Provide counties/cities with applicable Reclamation facility, property, and mapping information (i.e., lot splits) in an effort to coordinate working with their planning, zoning, and permitting processes.

**GOAL LUM 2: *Provide direction on the use or disposal of Reclamation property.***

**Objective LUM 2.1:** Within authorities and compatible with Project purposes, natural and cultural resource protection, and land management needs, allow suitable parcels to be transferred or disposed (see Reclamation Manual LND 08-02).

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 2.1.1:** Follow Reclamation policy and criteria provided in Appendix D (Authorities & Methods for Disposing of Minidoka North Side Lands) for parcels

determined suitable for transfer or disposal.

**Objective LUM 2.2:** Consider leasing Reclamation parcels for grazing or agricultural uses where appropriate.

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 2.2.1:** Develop prescriptions and lease limitations on parcels considered for grazing.

**LUM 2.2.2:** Consider new grazing leases on designated parcels that do not affect operations and maintenance, and are based on protection and/or improvement of natural and cultural resource values and water quality concerns.

**LUM 2.2.3:** Consider new agricultural leases only when they contribute to the closure of drain wells, where water rights are legally appropriated, and where there would be no impacts to natural and cultural resources.

**GOAL LUM 3: *Engage and work cooperatively with other agencies to manage resources, uses, and activities on appropriate Reclamation lands.***

**Objective LUM 3.1:** Renegotiate formal Reclamation/IDFG agreements for IDFG management of specific parcels. [see NAT 1.7].

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 3.1.1:** Work with IDFG to prepare overall vision and goals for managing appropriate Reclamation parcels and framework for a new management agreement.

**LUM 3.1.2:** Determine appropriate parcels, or portions of parcels to be managed by IDFG, and prepare management criteria and objectives for each specific parcel.

**LUM 3.1.3:** Perform annual implementation planning meetings and monitoring to see that management criteria are being followed and objectives are being met.

**Objective LUM 3.2:** Continue agreements and cooperative working relationships with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the management of Lake Walcott State Park and Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge (respectively), and where appropriate and feasible on other nearby Reclamation lands. [see REC 1.1 and 1.2]

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 3.2.1:** Coordinate with IDPR in the preparation and implementation of a Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan for Lake Walcott State Park outlining vegetation preservation/protection, use areas, hardscape areas, and other pertinent park guidance.

**LUM 3.2.2:** Update the Reclamation/IDPR agreement regarding IDPR's management of Lake Walcott State Park incorporating implementation of measures outlined in the park's Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan. [see CUL 1.2.1 and REC 1.1.1]

**LUM 3.2.3:** Continue coordination efforts with FWS related to their management of Minidoka NWR, where needed.

**LUM 3.2.4:** Amend FWS and/or IDPR agreements to incorporate coordinating activities related to managing

Reclamation parcels adjacent to the refuge and park, if needed.

***GOAL LUM 4: Ensure protection of the public, facilities, and public resource values on Reclamation lands and alleviate conflicts with adjacent lands.***

**Objective LUM 4.1:** Pursue agreements with other Federal and local agencies as the primary enforcement entities to ensure an adequate level of law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

**Management Actions**

**LUM 4.1.1:** Prepare new law enforcement agreements with interested entities focused on enforcing laws and Reclamation policies to protect natural and cultural resources and provide for security and public safety on Reclamation lands.

**LUM 4.1.2:** Define and incorporate specific law enforcement needs and purposes into agreements with other entities providing law enforcement services on Reclamation lands.

**LUM 4.1.3:** Monitor law enforcement activities and changing needs over time to adjust purpose and priorities for providing law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

**LUM 4.1.4:** Provide funding for law enforcement of Reclamation lands.

**Objective LUM 4.2:** Investigate and implement means of more efficiently and effectively improving law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

**Management Actions**

**LUM 4.2.1:** Work with counties to pass ordinances aimed at improving law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

**LUM 4.2.2:** Seek adjacent landowner and citizen participation in improving law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

**LUM 4.2.3:** Participate in Crime Witness program wherein rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction for illegal dumping, vandalism, theft, waste, fraud, or harm to Reclamation personnel (see Appendix E).

**Objective LUM 4.3:** Develop and implement a comprehensive wildland fire management plans as needed to address public safety-related concerns, as well as efforts that would enhance or protect the natural resource values of RMP lands. [see NAT 1.6]

**Management Actions**

**LUM 4.3.1:** See NAT 1.6.1.

**LUM 4.3.2:** Provide funding for fire-related activities on Reclamation lands, subject to appropriations.

**Objective LUM 4.4:** Eliminate existing trespass/encroachments on Reclamation lands (see Reclamation Manual LND P04).

**Management Actions**

**LUM 4.4.1:** Establish immediate, short- and long-term priorities for addressing trespass/encroachments on Reclamation lands.

**LUM 4.4.2:** Complete surveying of sites to determine the extent of trespasses/encroachments.

**LUM 4.4.3:** Update Reclamation's GIS database (and continue to revise as needed) incorporating surveys and other relevant information.

**LUM 4.4.4:** Increase enforcement activities related to trespass and unauthorized use of Reclamation lands, including notifications, fines, removal, etc.

**LUM 4.4.5:** Work with adjacent landowners to eliminate existing trespass/encroachments and rehabilitate lands, where appropriate.

**LUM 4.4.6:** Develop and implement a monitoring program aimed at preventing future trespasses/encroachments on Reclamation parcels.

**LUM 4.4.7:** Use the Crime Witness program to offer rewards to individuals who report unauthorized or illegal use of Reclamation lands, and which lead to arrest or levied fines. [see LUM 4.2.3]

**Objective LUM 4.5:** Implement measures to address unauthorized uses of Reclamation lands, including the clean up of trash dumps and monitoring to prevent future dumping.

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 4.5.1:** Establish immediate, short- and long-term priorities for addressing dump sites on Reclamation lands, and issue contracts for cleanup as needed.

**LUM 4.5.2:** Complete surveying of sites to determine the extent of dump sites, specific problems associated with particular uses, and characterization of contents in an attempt to determine responsible party(ies).

**LUM 4.5.3:** Update Reclamation's GIS database (and continue to revise as

needed) incorporating illegal dump sites and other relevant information.

**LUM 4.5.4:** Increase enforcement activities related to dump sites of Reclamation lands, including notifications, fines, removal, etc.

**LUM 4.5.5:** Work with the public to enlist and form a "watchdog" group aimed at catching perpetrators; include incentives such as rewards through participation in the Crime Witness program. [see LUM 4.2.3]

**LUM 4.5.6:** Develop and implement a monitoring program aimed at preventing future unauthorized uses on Reclamation parcels.

**Objective LUM 4.6:** Educate the public that all Reclamation lands are closed to ORV use (see 43 CFR Part 420). [see REC 2.1 related to preparation of an Access Management Plan]

### **Management Actions**

**LUM 4.6.1:** Prepare and post signs at areas with past evidence of ORV use noting Reclamation's ORV regulation.

**LUM 4.6.2:** Post Reclamation's ORV regulation signs at appropriate locations on fences or at other boundary demarcations.

**LUM 4.6.3:** Describe Reclamation's ORV regulation in all appropriate future pamphlets, publications, public announcements.

**Objective LUM 4.7:** Ensure that siting and design of all new facilities, structures, roads, and trails on Reclamation lands maximize compatibility and integration with the open, rural environment and historic landscape of the surrounding area.



### Management Actions

**LUM 4.7.1:** Design facilities to complement and be subordinate to the surrounding landscape wherever feasible.

**LUM 4.7.2:** Immediately revegetate disturbed areas resulting from any construction-related activities.

**LUM 4.7.3:** Preserve and protect all existing trees, shrubs, and other naturally occurring vegetation from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved construction roads, or excavation operations.

**LUM 4.7.4:** Design all maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas to preserve trees, shrubs, and other vegetation wherever feasible.

**Objective LUM 4.8:** Minimize impacts on adjacent/surrounding lands resulting from land disturbing activities undertaken on Reclamation lands.

### Management Actions

**LUM 4.8.1:** Monitor any land-disturbing activities on Reclamation lands to ensure minimal impacts to adjacent lands.

**Objective LUM 4.9:** Address and resolve unauthorized access-related conflicts pertaining to Reclamation lands.

### Management Actions

**LUM 4.9.1:** Using Reclamation sign guidelines, post signs at areas with past evidence of access-related conflicts noting Reclamation's ownership and road restrictions.

**LUM 4.9.2:** Describe and show access-restricted roads in the Access Management Plan (see REC 2.2.1).

**Objective LUM 4.10:** Ensure that monitoring of agricultural and grazing activities is conducted to enforce compliance with lease terms.

### Management Actions

**LUM 4.10.1:** Establish and implement grazing and agricultural lease monitoring schedules and protocols.

**LUM 4.10.2:** Perform reviews of each leased parcel as per monitoring schedule to ensure compliance with lease provisions and effect on lands for grazing, noting field observations from each visit.

**Objective LUM 4.11:** Prohibit concentrated shooting/target practice on Reclamation lands as required except as formally authorized by Reclamation policy (see Reclamation Manual ENV 02-07).

### Management Actions

**LUM 4.11.1:** Post Reclamation's policy related to concentrated shooting/target practice on signs at appropriate locations, including on fences or at other boundary demarcations, and at areas with past evidence of concentrated shooting/target practice.

**LUM 4.11.2:** Describe Reclamation policy in all appropriate future pamphlets, publications, public announcements.

**GOAL LUM 5: *Provide informational, educational, and interpretive materials to increase public awareness of Reclamation boundaries, use restrictions, safety***

**concerns, natural and cultural resource values, and recreational opportunities.**

**Objective LUM 5.1:** On all publicly distributed materials show the public closure area in the vicinity of Minidoka Dam, as appropriate.

**Management Actions**

**LUM 5.1.1:** Clearly mark the areas closed to the public in the vicinity of Minidoka Dam on pamphlets, signs, fences, and interpretive kiosks; provide a note stating that the boundaries of closed areas are subject to change.

**Objective LUM 5.2:** Using Reclamation's sign manual develop clear, consistent signage to guide public access to and the use of Reclamation lands.

**Management Actions**

**LUM 5.2.1:** Inventory existing signs and determine a prioritized list of additional sign needs.

**LUM 5.2.2:** Design, purchase, construct, and install signs as funding allows and according to the prioritized list.

**Objective LUM 5.3:** Improve public information/awareness of Reclamation lands through better on-the-ground boundary demarcation using signage, fencing, or other means as feasible and where necessary.

**Management Actions**

**LUM 5.3.1:** Inventory existing boundary fence and sign locations and determine a prioritized list of additional needs.

**LUM 5.3.2:** Install additional boundary signs and fencing as funding allows and according to the prioritized list.

**Objective LUM 5.4:** Coordinate with other agencies and entities to develop an educational interpretive program that incorporates illustrating the prehistoric, historic, and current land use practices, as well as natural features.

**Management Actions**

**LUM 5.4.1:** Work with Federal, State, and local agencies to prepare interpretive information for visitors to Lake Walcott State Park, Minidoka NWR, Bishop's Hole, and other appropriate locations.

**GOAL LUM 6: Achieve timely implementation and coordination of RMP programs and projects.**

**Objective LUM 6.1:** Maintain a clear phasing schedule and list of priorities for RMP implementation; and update on an annual basis.

**Management Actions**

**LUM 6.1.1:** Track and annually update progress on the Management Actions in the RMP implementation schedule.

**LUM 6.1.2:** Conduct annual meetings with managing partners to track progress in implementing the RMP and set priorities for the upcoming year.

**Objective LUM 6.2:** Seek Reclamation and managing partners (FWS, IDPR, IDFG, Counties, etc.) joint funding to implement applicable RMP actions according to the priority list and phasing schedule.

## Management Actions

**LUM 6.2.1:** Pursue implementation through a variety of sources including, but not limited to:

- Title 28 cost share program for recreation enhancements, which allows a 50 percent Federal contribution to match a 50 percent non-Federal managing partner contribution (see Reclamation Manual LND 01-01, paragraph 2).
- Title 28 cost share program for fish and wildlife enhancement, improvement, and restoration projects, which allows a 75 percent Federal contribution to match a 25 percent non-Federal managing partner contribution (see Reclamation Manual LND 01-01, paragraph 2).
- Idaho State Waterway or Recreational Vehicle Grants.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants.
- Other Federal, State, and local cost share and grant programs.

**Objective LUM 6.3:** Keep stakeholders, surrounding landowners, Tribes and the public informed regarding the status of implementing the RMP.

## Management Actions

**LUM 6.3.1:** Provide news releases to the local media for major projects and accomplishments (e.g., trash removal, dump cleanup, new interpretive information, etc.). Post or provide implementation information for major actions at public sites.

## 5.2.2 Natural Resources (NAT)

Reclamation's approach to managing natural resources is to preserve and enhance native wildlife populations and their habitat in accordance with an approved land use or resource management plan and encourage its land-management partners to follow suit.

The principles in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575, will continue to be adhered to for fish and wildlife-related activities and management considerations. Basically, Title 28 states that if a non Federal public entity has agreed to manage fish and wildlife resources on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share those costs for up to 75 percent of the total cost. IDFG has been Reclamation's non-Federal public entity managing partner for specific parcels within the RMP Study Area that warrant protection and/or enhancement related to habitat values, and will continue to be in the future.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (P.L. 93-205), Federal and Reclamation policies provide for the protection of plant and animal species that are currently in danger of extinction (endangered) or those that may become so in the foreseeable future. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to conduct informal and formal consultations with the FWS on all proposed actions that may affect any Federally listed or candidate threatened or endangered species. This consultation process is designed to ensure that Federal activities will not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species, or on designated areas (critical habitats) that are important in conserving these species.

Federal policy and Reclamation's approach also support the protection and "no net loss" of wetlands. In carrying out land

management responsibilities, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) states that agencies shall: "Avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative."

Noxious weeds reduce the quantity and quality of forage and wildlife habitat, contaminate food stocks, and restrict waterways. Reclamation will strive to reduce, and eliminate if possible, noxious weeds on all of its lands and assist adjacent landowners (wherever possible) in their efforts at eradicating noxious weeds. It is Reclamation's approach to prepare and implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plans for lands under its jurisdiction. Reclamation also works with local agencies under the guidance of the IPM Plan.

Reclamation's approach to managing soil resources and water quality focuses on reducing soil erosion from various sources or the improper use of hazardous materials. All development and/or Management Actions will consider and respond to this approach.

***GOAL NAT 1: Protect, conserve, and as funding is available, enhance wildlife, vegetation, and habitat values on Reclamation lands.***

**Objective NAT 1.1:** Avoid or minimize impacts of RMP actions on Federal and State designated species of special concern, including those Federally listed rare,

threatened or endangered (see Reclamation Manual LND P03).

**Management Actions**

**NAT 1.1.1:** Comply with Federal Endangered Species Act regarding all pertinent activities by using existing and future information in adaptive management of Federally protected species and their habitat.

**NAT 1.1.2:** In addition to ESA-protected species, specifically protect State species of special concern, including Idaho Conservation Data Center category S2 and S3 plants and plant communities.

**NAT 1.1.3:** Conduct TES and rare species surveys as necessary, but prior to the start of construction or allowance of land use activities (e.g., grazing). Any established search protocols will be followed.

**NAT 1.1.4:** The priority for protection and recovery includes rare, threatened, and endangered species. Therefore, actions that have the potential of adversely affecting sensitive species would only be implemented after appropriate habitat evaluations followed by site clearances, if necessary, to assure that sensitive species and their habitats are not impacted and that recovery efforts are furthered. This would be a two step process through which it would first be determined if suitable habitat types for sensitive species are present in the vicinity of a proposed action. If suitable habitat is present, site clearances following established survey protocols would be conducted before actions are implemented.

**Objective NAT 1.2:** Protect and enhance resource values, of and for, native species

(plants and animals) on parcels or portions of parcels exhibiting mainly high quality habitat (where native vegetation is dominant).

### **Management Actions**

**NAT 1.2.1:** Prioritize areas to be protected and enhanced using GIS data, aerial photography, and field verification.

**NAT 1.2.2:** Implement protection measures and enhancement techniques, such as: access/use restrictions, fencing, buffers and signage, and re-seeding disturbed lands to reduce weeds and establish native plantings.

**NAT 1.2.3:** Supplement wildland fire management funds to support protection and enhancement efforts.

**NAT 1.2.4:** Follow Best Management Practices listed below when engaging in activities that may affect native plant and animal species on Reclamation parcels.

NAT 1.2.4.1: Disturbed areas resulting from any construction will be aggressively revegetated.

NAT 1.2.4.2: To the maximum extent practicable, all native existing trees, shrubs, and other vegetation will be preserved and protected from construction operations and equipment except where clearing operations are required for permanent structures, approved construction roads, or excavation operations.

NAT 1.2.4.3: To the maximum extent practicable, all maintenance yards, field offices, and staging areas will be arranged to preserve trees, shrubs, and other vegetation.

NAT 1.2.4.4: Clearing will be restricted to that area needed for construction. In critical habitat areas including, but not limited to, wetlands and riparian areas, clearing may be restricted to only a few feet beyond the areas required for construction.

NAT 1.2.4.5: Stream corridors, wetlands, riparian areas, steep slopes, or other critical environmental areas will not be used for equipment or materials storage or stockpiling; construction staging or maintenance; field offices; hazardous material or fuel storage, handling, or transfer; or temporary access roads, in order to reduce environmental damage.

NAT 1.2.4.6: Excavated or graded materials will not be stockpiled or deposited on or within 100 feet of any steep slopes (defined by industry standards), wetlands, riparian areas, or stream banks (including seasonally active ephemeral streams without woody or herbaceous vegetation growing in the channel bottom), or on native vegetation.

NAT 1.2.4.7: To the maximum extent possible, staging areas, access roads, and other site disturbances will be located in disturbed areas, not in native or naturally occurring vegetation.

NAT 1.2.4.8: The width of all new temporary and permanent roads will be kept to the absolute minimum needed for safety, avoiding wetland and riparian areas where possible. Turnouts and staging areas will not be placed in wetlands.

NAT 1.2.4.9: Construction areas, including storage yards, will limit the amount of waste material and trash accumulations at all times.

NAT 1.2.4.10: All unused materials and trash will be removed from construction and storage sites during the final phase of work. All removed material will be placed in approved sanitary landfills or storage sites, and work areas will be left to conform to the natural landscape.

NAT 1.2.4.11: Upon completion of construction, any land disturbed outside the limits of reservoir pools, permanent roads, and other permanent facilities will be graded to provide proper drainage and blend with the natural contour of the land. Following grading, the disturbed areas will be revegetated using plants native to the area, suitable for the site conditions, and beneficial to wildlife.

NAT 1.2.4.12: Where applicable, Reclamation and contractors will consult with applicable agencies (IDFG, IDPR, NRCS, BLM) to determine the recommended plant species composition, seeding rates, and planting dates.

NAT 1.2.4.13: Native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees appropriate for site conditions and surrounding vegetation will be included on a plant list developed during site design. Species chosen for a site will be matched for site drainage, climate, shading, and resistance to erosion, soil type, slope, aspect, and vegetation management goals. Wetland and riparian species will be used in revegetating disturbed wetlands. Upland revegetation shall

match the plant list to the site's soil type, topographic position, elevation, and surrounding communities. Local native species will be used in all areas that are not landscaped.

NAT 1.2.4.14: Where appropriate, construction activities that could impact native fish will be undertaken during non-spawning periods.

NAT 1.2.4.15: If native plant communities must be used for access roads or staging areas, site clearances at the appropriate time of year for the species involved will be conducted by qualified biologists to ensure sensitive species are not impacted. Any established search protocols will be followed.

**Objective NAT 1.3:** Conserve and restore pockets of native vegetation on portions of larger parcels exhibiting mainly non-native vegetation.

### Management Actions

**NAT 1.3.1:** Prioritize pocket areas to be conserved and restored (e.g., GIS data, aerial photography, and field verification).

**NAT 1.3.2:** Implement conservation measures and restoration techniques, such as: access/use restrictions, fencing, buffers and signage, and re-seeding disturbed lands to reduce weeds and native plantings during appropriate times of the year.

**Objective NAT 1.4:** Protect, enhance, and/or create new wetland and riparian habitats on Reclamation lands in accordance with existing Federal regulations, Irrigation District needs, and wildlife habitat conservation objectives by pursuing partners

for wetland development and other appropriate means (see Reclamation Manual LND P03).

### **Management Actions**

**NAT 1.4.1:** Continue to create wetlands which contribute to drain water management and that facilitate closure of groundwater injection wells on a case-by-case basis.

**NAT 1.4.2:** Work with other interested entities (IDFG, Ducks Unlimited) to improve/increase wetlands habitat value in conjunction with and when compatible with drain water management.

**Objective NAT 1.5:** Develop, and work with other agencies (BLM, IDFG, IDPR, and various county Weed Control Boards) to implement, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan for parcels within the RMP area, including: aquatic, terrestrial, and airborne noxious and invasive weed and pest problems (see Reclamation Manual ENV 01-01).

### **Management Actions**

**NAT 1.5.1:** Develop an IPM plan that incorporates and implements an active weed control program with efforts focused on areas with high habitat values (especially along watercourses).

**NAT 1.5.2:** Incorporate and implement an active noxious/invasive species transfer identification and prevention program into the IPM Plan. The program will identify potential pathways for the transport of noxious/invasive species or their various parts (seedlings, cuttings, etc.).

**NAT 1.5.3:** Fund IPM Plan activities, including allocations for partnership agencies.

**Objective NAT 1.6:** Ensure development and implementation of a comprehensive wildland fire management plan or plans as needed. For example, implementation may include additional agreements related to wildland fire prevention, fuels management, suppression, and rehabilitation, in an effort to protect, restore, and enhance, the natural resource values of RMP lands, as well as public safety-related concerns.

### **Management Actions**

**NAT 1.6.1:** As needed, prepare and implement a comprehensive wildland fire management plan(s) that incorporates the following elements, in keeping with the RMP objectives:

- Specify entity(ies) responsible for wildland fire suppression response on specific parcels or Fire Management Units which cover RMP lands.
- Establish goals, standards, objectives, and/or desired future conditions for wildland fire management and rehabilitation.
- Incorporate wildland fire management tools for managing fuels into land management activities, such as fire breaks and vegetation management.
- Develop possible long-term prescribed treatment proposals and options to meet land management objectives.

**NAT 1.6.2:** Fund wildland fire management plan activities, as appropriate, to meet RMP objectives.

**NAT 1.6.3:** As needed, enter into agreements with managing partners, adjacent land managers, and/or service providers to implement appropriate wildland fire management practices to meet RMP objectives.

**Objective NAT 1.7:** Work with IDFG to implement habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration activities on Reclamation lands managed jointly with IDFG. [see LUM 3.1]

### Management Actions

**NAT 1.7.1:** See LUM 3.1.1 – 3.1.3

### ***GOAL NAT 2: Protect water quality on all Reclamation lands.***

**Objective NAT 2.1:** Where appropriate, coordinate with Irrigation Districts the use of appropriate parcels for drain water management purposes.

**Objective NAT 2.2:** Manage the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides on Reclamation lands, including those leased for agricultural purposes, in a manner that does not adversely affect water quality and is consistent with State and Federal laws. [see NAT 1.5]

### Management Actions

**NAT 2.2.1:** See lease compliance actions LUM 4.10.1 – 4.1.0.3 related to agricultural leases.

**Objective NAT 2.3:** Minimize the potential for pollutants to enter wetlands and the Snake River from activities on Reclamation lands.

### Management Actions

**NAT 2.3.1:** Follow Best Management Practices when engaging in activities

that could result in pollutants being released from Reclamation parcels (note: BMPs do not apply to ongoing exempted agricultural activities), including those listed below.

**NAT 2.3.1.1:** All Federal and State laws related to control and abatement of water pollution will be complied with. All waste material and sewage from construction activities or Project-related features will be disposed of according to Federal and State pollution control regulations.

**NAT 2.3.1.2:** Construction contractors may be required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit as established under Public Law 92B500 and amended by the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95B217).

**NAT 2.3.1.3:** Construction specifications shall require construction methods that will prevent entrance or accidental spillage of pollutants into flowing or dry watercourses and underground water sources. Potential pollutants and wastes include refuse, garbage, cement, concrete, sewage effluent, industrial waste, oil and other petroleum products, aggregate processing tailings, mineral salts, drilling mud, and thermal pollution.

**NAT 2.3.1.4:** Eroded materials shall be prevented from entering streams or watercourses during dewatering activities associated with structure foundations or earthwork operations adjacent to, or encroaching on, streams or watercourses.



NAT 2.3.1.5: Any construction wastewater discharged into surface waters will be essentially free of settling material. Water pumped from behind cofferdams and wastewater from aggregate processing, concrete batching, or other construction operations shall not enter streams or watercourses without water quality treatment. Turbidity control methods may include settling ponds; gravel-filter entrapment dikes; approved flocculating processes not harmful to fish or other aquatic life; recirculation systems for washing aggregates; or other approved methods.

NAT 2.3.1.6: Any riprap shall be free of contaminants and not contribute significantly to the turbidity of the reservoir.

NAT 2.3.1.7: Appropriate controls to reduce stormwater pollutant loads in post-construction site runoff shall be followed. The appropriate facilities shall be properly designed, installed, and maintained to provide water quality treatment for runoff originating from all recreational facilities.

**Objective NAT 2.4:** Provide adequate sanitation and waste management facilities at developed recreation sites (e.g., restrooms, trash containers, and RV dump stations, as appropriate) to protect water quality.

### **Management Actions**

**NAT 2.4.1:** Follow Best Management Practices when regarding sanitation and waste management facilities, including those listed below.

NAT 2.4.1.1: All parking lots, boat ramps and associated areas shall be designed to promote efficient vehicle and boat traffic to prevent congestion and pollution.

NAT 2.4.1.2: Waste facilities shall be connected, whenever possible, to sanitary sewer systems instead of septic tanks to avoid water quality problems from failed tanks.

### ***GOAL NAT 3: Control soil erosion in priority areas where it causes concern for water quality and damage to resources and facilities.***

**Objective NAT 3.1:** Implement an effective erosion control program (standards, guidelines, and BMPs) in all construction activities and maintenance programs on Reclamation lands while considering program effects on other resources (natural, scenic, cultural).

### **Management Actions**

**NAT 3.1.1:** Follow Best Management Practices when engaging in activities that may cause soil erosion on Reclamation parcels, including those listed below.

NAT 3.1.1.1: The design and construction of facilities will employ applicable recognized BMPs to prevent possible soil erosion and subsequent water quality impacts.

NAT 3.1.1.2: The planting of native grasses, forbs, trees, or shrubs beneficial to wildlife, or the placement of riprap, sand bags, sod, erosion mats, bale dikes, mulch, or excelsior blankets will be used to prevent and minimize erosion and siltation during construction and during the period needed to

reestablish permanent local native vegetative cover on disturbed sites located outside of landscaped areas. Appropriate landscaping plants and materials will be used for such purposes in landscaped areas.

NAT 3.1.1.3: Final erosion control and site restoration measures will be initiated as soon as a particular area is no longer needed for construction, stockpiling, or access. Clearing schedules will be arranged to minimize exposure of soils.

NAT 3.1.1.4: Cuts and fills for relocated and new roads will be sloped to facilitate revegetation.

NAT 3.1.1.5: Soil or rock stockpiles, excavated materials, or excess soil materials will not be placed near sensitive habitats, including water channels, wetlands, riparian areas, sites with rare and sensitive-plant species, and on native or naturally occurring vegetation, where they may erode into these habitats or be washed away by high water or storm runoff. Waste piles will be revegetated using suitable native species after they are shaped to provide a natural appearance.

**NAT 3.1.2:** Provide BMPs to contractors, managing partners, permit holders, and others conducting authorized construction activities; and require full compliance through inclusion and contract/permit specifications.

### 5.2.3 Cultural Resources (CUL)

Cultural resources are historic properties that reflect our Nation's heritage. Historic properties include prehistoric and historic

archeological sites, buildings, traditional cultural properties (TCPs), and historically significant places that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). TCPs are National Register-eligible properties that have special heritage value to contemporary communities (usually Indian communities) because of association with cultural practices or beliefs that are important in maintaining the cultural identity of that community.

Federal law requires Federal agencies to identify, evaluate, and appropriately manage National Register-eligible historic properties that are affected by their actions or are located on lands they administer. A list of these laws is provided in Appendix B. Agencies are required to assess resource significance, evaluate impacts on significant sites, and select resource management actions in consultation with the SHPO, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (the Advisory Council), and other affected or interested parties. Indian tribes must be consulted where cultural resources of concern to a tribe could be present, or where human burials or other Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) cultural items affiliated with a tribe could be affected by agency actions. Reclamation implements these laws using processes defined in regulations (particularly 36 CFR 800 for the National Historic Preservation Act [NHPA] and 45 CFR 10 for NAGPRA. Reclamation Manual LND 02-01 (Cultural Resource Management) directs the agency to implement cultural resource management actions in a positive manner that fulfills the spirit, as well as the letter, of the law.

The requirements of Federal law and Reclamation cultural resource management policy also apply to other parties who manage or use Reclamation lands under a permit, lease, use agreement, or other legal

instrument. Those parties are responsible for notifying Reclamation of proposed actions on those lands; implementing actions to identify and evaluate resources that could be affected by their use or action; and implementing actions to protect National Register-eligible resources or mitigating unavoidable effects to eligible sites resulting from their use or actions. Reclamation is responsible for defining the necessary identification, evaluation, and management or mitigation actions, and for ensuring that managing partners, lessees, and permittees observe these terms and conditions and act as responsible stewards of the resources on those lands.

Reclamation's policy is to avoid or minimize adverse effects to National Register-eligible historic properties whenever possible. If adverse effects are unavoidable, Reclamation typically mitigates the adverse effects through a site documentation or data recovery program that has been developed in consultation with the SHPO and other interested parties, and formalized through a memorandum of agreement. For impacted TCPs, Reclamation would work with affected Indian tribes to identify means to minimize impacts, and seek to mitigate damaging impacts when mitigation is possible.

The following Goals and Objectives outline actions that Reclamation has determined are necessary to meet the agency's cultural resource management responsibilities under the law. Reclamation will continue to use consultative processes defined in 36 CFR 800 to determine site eligibility, impacts from new actions or existing uses, and appropriate treatment.

***Goal CUL 1: Seek to protect and preserve cultural resources, including prehistoric and historic-period archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties.***

**Objective CUL 1.1:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) seek to protect National Register-eligible sites from impacts from new undertakings.

**Management Actions**

**CUL 1.1.1:** Complete pedestrian archeological surveys when ground-disturbing actions are proposed in unsurveyed locations. Complete site evaluation actions to determine National Register eligibility to sites threatened by new actions, land use, or project operations, and address impacts to eligible sites.

**CUL 1.1.2:** Complete tribal consultations, as necessary, to determine if TCPs are present in areas of new ground-disturbing actions, or in or near focused use areas. If present, assess and address impacts from new actions or existing use.

**CUL 1.1.3:** If Indian tribes identify culturally important resources within new development areas, avoid adverse impacts to those resource locations when avoidance will accomplish broader agency responsibilities, is cost effective, and lies within Reclamation's authority.

**CUL 1.1.4:** In the event of discovery of human remains of Indian origin, complete protective actions and tribal notification and consultation actions per 43 CFR 10.

**CUL 1.1.5:** Design facilities to avoid or minimize cultural resource damage.

**Objective CUL 1.2:** In accordance with Section 110 of the NHPA implement proactive management of cultural resources, focusing on protecting identified resources from damage.

### **Management Actions**

**CUL 1.2.1:** Include cultural resource protection strategies in IDPR Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan. [see LUM 3.2.2 and REC 1.1.1]

**Objective CUL 1.3:** Increase awareness of cultural resources compliance and protection requirements among resource management partners.

### **Management Actions**

**CUL 1.3.1:** Develop guidelines/procedures and provide training for IDPR staff, IDFG staff, lease holders, and other managing partners to increase awareness of the NHPA and other cultural resource statutory requirements.

**Objective CUL 1.4:** With local partners provide opportunities for public education on area prehistory and history, including the importance of and requirements for protecting these resources.

### **Management Actions**

**CUL 1.4.1:** Prepare and provide educational information about resource values and area history at appropriate locations (i.e., Lake Walcott State Park).

## **5.2.4 Indian Sacred Sites (ISS)**

No Indian sacred sites have been identified on Reclamation lands within the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area. Reclamation will avoid impacts to any Indian sacred sites if they are identified in the future.

## **Goal ISS 1: Comply with requirements of Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites).**

**Objective ISS 1.1:** Seek to avoid damage to Indian sacred sites (when present and identified), when avoidance is consistent with accomplishing Reclamation's mission and larger public responsibilities.

### **Management Actions**

**ISS 1.1.1:** Consult with Indian tribes when it appears that sacred sites might be present in areas of new ground-disturbance, or in locations where sacred sites might be damaged by existing public land uses. If present, seek to avoid damages and maintain access when implementing new actions.

**Objective ISS 1.2:** Provide for access by traditional religious practitioners to sacred sites, when consistent with mission.

### **Management Actions**

**ISS 1.2.1:** Consult when it appears that sacred sites might be present in areas of focused public use. If present, seek to resolve impacts and maintain access.

## **5.2.5 Indian Trust Assets (ITA)**

### **Goal ITA 1: Protect and conserve Indian Trust Assets as specified in applicable Secretarial Orders.**

**Objective ITA 1.1:** Consult with appropriate tribes on actions that may affect Indian Trust Assets.

### **Management Actions**

**ITA 1.1.1:** Use the NEPA process to assess potential impacts to ITAs that may exist.

### 5.2.6 Recreation and Access (REC)

Reclamation's approach to providing and maintaining public recreational opportunities, facilities, and interpretive programs is to work with non-Federal managing partners in accordance with an approved RMP. The RMP is intended to protect the health and safety of the users, protect land and water resources from environmental degradation, and protect cultural resources from damage. Recreation facilities under Reclamation jurisdiction will be operated and maintained in a safe and healthful manner and be universally accessible.

All new construction is required to be 100 percent accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with current Federal accessibility standards. These standards include (but are not limited to) parking lots and spaces, access routes, camping sites, restrooms, concessions, entrance booths, trails, interpretive displays, and all signage.

The principles in Public Law 89-72, Federal Water Projects Recreation Act of 1965, as amended by Title 28 of Public Law 102-575, will continue to be adhered to for recreation-related development and management considerations. Basically, Title 28 states that if a non-Federal public entity has agreed to manage recreation on Reclamation lands, Reclamation may share development costs for up to 50 percent of the total cost.

Reclamation's non-Federal public entity managing partner at Lake Walcott State Park is IDPR, and will continue to be so in the future. All other parcels are managed by Reclamation, except for those specific parcels where IDFG has management jurisdiction related to wildlife resources. In lieu of a qualifying partner on parcels

outside of the State Park, it is Reclamation's policy, where deemed necessary, to provide and maintain minimum basic facilities at recreation sites.

Where Reclamation lands may be directly managed by others for recreation purposes, Reclamation shall exercise oversight responsibility to ensure that those management entities fulfill all aspects of the approved RMP. All contractual agreements with these management entities must comply with Federal laws and regulations concerning natural and cultural resource protection.

Visitor information is an important management responsibility that is not readily apparent but instrumental in providing a quality recreation experience and contributing to an informed visitor. An informed public will help protect and enhance the unique recreational and environmental attributes of the area. It is Reclamation's approach to assist with the development of interpretive programs to educate the public on resources and to provide information to visitors to improve their experience in the area, as well as to increase their awareness of natural and cultural resource values and public health and safety protection.

***GOAL REC 1: Work with IDPR and FWS in continuing to provide adequate facilities at Lake Walcott State Park and the surrounding area while affording the public a quality recreational experience consistent with natural and cultural resource objectives.***

**Objective REC 1.1:** Coordinate with IDPR in development on any expansion plans to accommodate increased demand at Lake Walcott.

### Management Actions

**REC 1.1.1:** Work with IDPR to prepare and implement a Historic Preservation and Maintenance Plan for the park outlining vegetation preservation/protection, use areas, hardscape areas, and other pertinent information and guidance.

**Objective REC 1.2:** Work with IDPR or other appropriate managing entity by establishing an agreement for the management of the Bishop's Hole site.

### Management Actions

**REC 1.2.1:** Implement management strategies at Bishop's Hole to enhance the visitor experience and increase public safety and security, including providing minimum basic facilities (e.g., organized access and parking, accessible toilet facility) in coordination with the results and implementation of the spillway study (see Reclamation Manual LND P03 and PN 04-01).

**REC 1.2.2:** Increase management oversight at Bishop's Hole and surrounding area where ad hoc uses are occurring.

**REC 1.2.3:** Seek public non-Federal managing partner for management of the Bishop's Hole day use site.

**REC 1.2.4:** Monitor use and conditions and adjust access or use levels to protect resources.

**Objective REC 1.3:** Assess, and where appropriate support, viable concession services at the State Park and/or appropriate sites; with concession management to follow Reclamation's policy.

### Management Actions

**REC 1.3.1:** Consider compatible concession/recreation permits on a case-by-case basis and authorize in compliance with Reclamation policy (see Reclamation Manual LND P-02 and LND 04-01).

**Objective REC 1.4:** Pursue enhancement of fishing access downstream of Minidoka Dam subject to security concerns.

### Management Actions

**REC 1.4.1:** Explore opportunities with a managing partner to develop enhanced fishing access on parcels along the Snake River.

**GOAL REC 2: *Allow for dispersed recreational activities on Reclamation lands, consistent with Reclamation Project purposes, regulations, and natural and cultural resource objectives.***

**Objective REC 2.1:** Prepare and conduct an access management plan in coordination with other affected agencies and managing partners to determine where and how vehicular access will be allowed on Reclamation lands.

### Management Actions

**REC 2.1.1:** Develop and implement the following elements into an Access Management Plan for all Reclamation parcels:

- Signs
- Fencing of parcels and placement of barriers
- Maps and brochures showing areas of access and public education

interests, including open nearby BLM lands and regulations

- Established vehicle parking areas
- Criteria for which parcels continue to be allowed for public vehicular access
- Public information process (media announcements, informative meetings, etc.)
- Monitoring program

**Objective REC 2.2:** Continue to allow non-vehicular access on all parcels (except for those specifically closed for such use), and where appropriate improve opportunities with a non-Federal, public entity managing partner (i.e., hunting, fishing, and trapping).

### **Management Actions**

**REC 2.2.1:** Monitor non-vehicular access and modify as necessary to protect resources.

**Objective REC 2.3:** Continue to allow ad hoc day use activities, and where appropriate, improve opportunities with a qualifying partner for non-consumptive recreational uses (e.g., nature appreciation, dispersed camping, wildlife watching, etc.) on suitable parcels.

### **Management Actions**

**REC 2.3.1:** Actively seek a non-Federal managing partner to provide more active management and appropriate facilities at selected day use sites outside the park boundaries.

**REC 2.3.2:** Monitor ad hoc day use activities and modify as necessary to protect resources.

**Objective REC 2.4:** Where appropriate continue to allow ad hoc camping to occur consistent with natural and cultural resource objectives.

### **Management Actions**

**REC 2.4.1:** Increase management oversight at areas where ad hoc camping is occurring to protect resources and avoid land use conflicts.

**REC 2.4.2:** Prohibit any developed camping outside of Lake Walcott State Park.

**Objective REC 2.5:** Pursue a relationship and work with a qualifying partner to develop feasible opportunities for developing and maintaining non-motorized recreational trails on appropriate parcels, including interpretive trails focused on natural and cultural resources, as well as tying into IDPR/FWS plans for additional trail development in the Lake Walcott area.

### **Management Actions**

**REC 2.5.1:** Actively seek a non-Federal managing partner to provide more opportunities for developing and maintaining non-motorized recreational trails.

**REC 2.5.2:** Monitor trail use and modify as necessary to protect resources.

